

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

**Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street**

Roll Call:

Members Present: Bob Bent, Christine Glaser, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Cairril Mills, Dave Rollo, Catherine Stafford, Toby Strout, Paul Sullivan, John West, Jeff Mease

Regrets: Keith Clay

Staff Present: Danise Alano, Director of Economic Development
Mike Steinhoff, Service Corps Intern
Jenny Sumner, Service Corps Intern

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes:

John Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Steve Forrest from Bloomington Transportation Options for People (BTOP) commented that there were 20-30 people at the Bloomington Transit public forum. They are doing route analysis, which they will finish up during the summer. Steve encouraged BCOS to be involved with the public input process.
- Paul Schneller asked if BCOS would be forming a group to look at housing.

Peak Oil Study Group:

Dave presented the plans for a Peak Oil Study Group. The group will work throughout the summer to make recommendations to Bloomington. Let the Council Office or Dave know if you're interested.

Lisa Abbott presented on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):

Lisa is the Director of HAND and was asked to speak about the CDBG process. Bloomington started receiving CDBG funds from Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in 1974, when the program was started. There is a formula for determining how much funding a city gets, based on various demographic measures. The peak funding year was 2001 when Bloomington received approximately \$1,105,000. This year, Bloomington received \$854,000.

According to statute, CDBG grants are restricted to the following allocations: no more than 20% of funds on administration, 15% on assistance to social service programs, and 65% to physical improvements. Money given to social service programs can only be spent on residents of Bloomington.

HUD requires that Bloomington develop a consolidated plan describing in detail how Bloomington complies with HUD regulations. The City of Bloomington Consolidated Plan can be viewed online at http://bloomington.in.gov/egov/docs/1157058189_61575.pdf.

President Bush proposed a 20% cut in CDBG funding this year. Less funding means that CDBG money funds fewer social service agencies, less money for projects like Evergreen Village – the sustainable affordable housing project near Rockport Road. Lisa noted that a particular need in our community is affordable housing for families in the 30% to 50% median area income range.

In addition to CDBG funding, Bloomington also has the Jack Hopkins Council Grant of around \$140,000 annually, operated through the City Council. Dave mentioned that this was an attempt to ameliorate the effect of cuts in federal grant monies.

Review of Indicators Report:

The Commission reviewed the Indicators report and will make comments to Mike and Danise by 4/23/07.

Staff Report:

Team Green will be participating in the City Clean Up, May 1st at 8 am. BCOS members are invited to volunteer as well!

Committee Updates:

Change a Light-The City will be giving away 300 CFLs at Step It Up.

Education- Toby needs to be added to the Education Committee. The public forums are going well and they are addressing the issue of business promotion. The Education Committee will develop information on sustainability to give to people before each forum so that they can judge each presentation for themselves. They will continue to read a disclaimer before the presentation saying that the City does not endorse any particular contractor.

New Business for 5/9/07 Meeting:

1. Mission/Action statement: Get feedback to Cairril by Monday. There will be an electronic vote after that.
2. Discuss the formation of a new committee to talk about transportation, land use, food, and long range planning.
3. Review the recommendations made by the joint EC Greenhouse Gas Committee. The Committee requests that BCOS endorse their recommendations.
4. Review recommendations made by Team Green. We'll send them out beforehand.
5. Long term: Have Barry Lessow speak about social entrepreneurship at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.